

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 21-0596V

ERIC AHLSTROM,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: September 18, 2024

Jonathan Joseph Svitak, Shannon Law Group, P.C., Woodridge, IL, for Petitioner.

Jamica Marie Littles, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On January 12, 2021, Eric Ahlstrom filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleged that he suffered a left shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), a defined Table Injury, after receiving influenza (“flu”) vaccine on September 29, 2020. Petition at 1, 1 ¶¶ 2, 13. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

Although Respondent opposed compensation,³ on May 15, 2024, I issued a ruling on entitlement, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for his SIRVA. ECF No. 32. While reserving his right to appeal my entitlement ruling, on September 17, 2024, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$48,663.78, representing \$47,500.00 for pain and suffering and

¹ Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2018).

³ See Rule 4(c) Report, ECF No. 29 (setting out these objections).

\$1,163.78 for past unreimbursable expenses. Proffer at 1 n1, 2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$48,663.78, representing \$47,500.00 for pain and suffering and \$1,163.78 for actual unreimbursable expenses in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran

Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

⁴ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

<p>ERIC AHLSTROM,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Petitioner,</p> <p>v.</p> <p>SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Respondent.</p>	<p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p>	<p>No. 21-596V</p> <p>Chief Special Master Corcoran</p> <p>ECF</p>
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RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On January 12, 2021, Eric Ahlstrom (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”), alleging that he suffered a Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (“SIRVA”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table, following administration of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine he received on September 29, 2020. Petition at 1. On September 11, 2023, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed a Rule 4(c) Report, indicating that this case was not appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Act for a SIRVA Table injury. ECF No. 29. On May 15, 2024, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement, finding petitioner entitled to compensation.¹ ECF No. 32.

¹ Respondent has no objection to the amount of the proffered award of damages set forth herein. Assuming the Chief Special Master issues a damages decision in conformity with this proffer, respondent waives his right to seek review of such damages decision. However, respondent reserves his right, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(e), to seek review of the Chief Special Master’s May 15, 2024, entitlement decision.

I. Items of Compensation

A. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$47,500.00 in pain and suffering.

See 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

B. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents the expenditure of past unreimbursable expenses related to her vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of \$1,163.78. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B). Petitioner agrees.

These amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).²

Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:

A lump sum payment of \$48,663.78, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

III. Summary of Recommended Payment Following Judgment

Lump Sum paid to petitioner, Eric Ahlstrom:	\$48,663.78
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² Should petitioner die prior to the entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering.

Respectfully submitted,

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/s/ Jamica M. Littles
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DATED: September 17, 2024